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## MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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### Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps Participates in Emergency Response Exercise

On April 19, 2005, volunteers from the Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps participated in an emergency response exercise at the Northeast Missouri Fairgrounds in Kirksville, MO. The exercise scenario involved a terrorist group causing an explosion and release of the chemical parathion at a Kirksville High School graduation ceremony with 1,000 people in attendance. The exercise involved about 50 "victims" who exhibited injuries and symptoms including dizziness, nausea, broken bones and head wounds. According to Carmen Stanton, Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps Project Coordinator, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers supported responding EMS agencies by providing care to victims awaiting transport to the hospital. In addition, Medical Reserve Corps volunteers assisted the fire department with taking and recording vital signs at the decontamination unit, since firefighters were occupied with hazardous materials response and decontamination. Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps volunteers who participated in the exercise included Lana Dawkins, Grayce Donovan, Mary Ann Dromey, Claudine Frazier, Kit Hadwiger, Michele McClain, Gail McCurdy, Dr. Richard Mercer

and Lori Tonkinson. The Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps debriefed their involvement in the exercise at their May 12, 2005 meeting.



Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps volunteers assist EMS agencies with triage of patients

The Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps is currently the only Medical Reserve Corps unit in Missouri that has an emergency response role assisting area fire and EMS agencies in the field. For more information on the Northeast Missouri Medical Reserve Corps and/or its April 19, 2005 exercise, contact Carmen Stanton at (660) 626-2192 or [cstanton@atsu.edu](mailto:cstanton@atsu.edu).

Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services, Region VII  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room S1801, Kansas City, MO 64106 (816) 426-2829 (816) 426-2178 Fax

## Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps Participates in "Healthy Kids Day"



Kathy Gann and Gloria Vermie staff the Medical Reserve Corps booth at the 2005 Greater Wichita YMCA's Healthy Kids Day



2005 Greater Wichita YMCA's Healthy Kids Day

On Saturday, April 2, 2005, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and staff participated in the Greater Wichita YMCA's "Healthy Kids Day." Healthy Kids Day is an annual event sponsored by the YMCA to promote healthy lifestyles, nutritious eating habits and safety tips for children. Over 2,000 children and their parents attended this event. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and staff provided event participants with helpful sun exposure information in English and Spanish (available from the EPA), as well as individual sunscreen packets with an SPF of 30. Children and parents alike

picked up the information and sunscreen. Medical Reserve Corps volunteers urged everyone to properly apply sunscreen when they plan to be outdoors. According to Kathy Gann, Sedgwick County Health Department, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and staff plan to be actively involved in the community to promote safe sun exposure tips, as well as other public health issues as summertime approaches.



Volunteers staff the Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps booth at the 2005 Greater Wichita YMCA's Healthy Kids Day

## Cole County Medical Reserve Corps Receives Official Recognition

On May 11, 2005, the Cole County Medical Reserve Corps received official recognition from the Medical Reserve Corps national program office, becoming the state's fifth Medical Reserve Corps unit and the thirteenth unit in Region VII. The unit serves Cole County, MO and its 71, 996 citizens. This service area also includes Jefferson City, the state capitol. The Cole County Medical Reserve Corps is sponsored by the county emergency management agency, in partnership with the local chapter of the American Red Cross. The unit is also funded by a Citizen Corps grant. According to Bruce Ziebarth, the Cole County Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, the unit will provide:

- Surge capacity for the two hospitals in the county
- Health education and health fairs in conjunction with the county public health agency
- Public health emergency operations, such as mass immunizations



In addition, the hospitals in the county have asked the Medical Reserve Corps unit to assist them with the management of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers in an emergency or disaster.

Congratulations to Bruce Ziebarth and the Cole County Medical Reserve Corps on receiving official recognition, and welcome to the network of Medical Reserve Corps units in Missouri and in Region VII! We look forward to working with you as you develop your Medical Reserve Corps unit.

### **Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps Conducts Blood Pressure Checks**

The Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps kicked off National Women's Health Week by providing free blood pressure checks and individual sunscreen packets to patrons of the Sedgwick County Zoo on Mother's Day, May 8, 2005. The Sedgwick County Health Department developed a blood pressure fact sheet that was given to visitors, and Kathy Gann, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, created a stamp which the Medical Reserve Corps volunteers used to record the blood pressure reading and date for visitors to the booth. 4,179 people, 807 of them mothers, took advantage of this event. According to Monique Garcia of the Sedgwick County Health Department, the event was a "smashing success!" In addition, Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and staff conducted free blood pressure checks at the Wichita River Festival Block Party, which began on May 13, 2005 and draws over 350,000 people over a 10 day period.



Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps staff and volunteers at the Sedgwick County Zoo



Sedgwick County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers conducting blood pressure checks

### **Upcoming Training and Conferences**



***Psychosocial Aspects of Catastrophic Disasters: Preparing Healthcare Professionals for New Challenges in the Medical Arena:*** June 1-2, 2005 in Washington, D.C. Sponsored by *Homeland Defense Journal*. For more information on the conference, visit [http://www.marketaccess.org/event\\_socialaspects.asp](http://www.marketaccess.org/event_socialaspects.asp).

***Workshop Series: Topics in Public Health Preparedness:*** June 23-24, 2005 in Lake Tahoe, CA. Workshop 1 – Isolation and Quarantine  
Workshop 2 – Field Epidemiology Basics  
Workshop 3 – Creating a Disaster Plan  
Workshop 4 – Writing Memoranda of Understanding  
Sponsored by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. For more information on the workshops, visit <http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/>.

***Public Health Homeland Security Summit 2005:*** July 7-8, 2005 in Arlington, Virginia. Organized by the Performance Institute. For more information, visit: [http://www.performanceweb.org/Centers/Law\\_Enforcement/Events/L169/L169.htm](http://www.performanceweb.org/Centers/Law_Enforcement/Events/L169/L169.htm).

**NACCHO-ASTHO 2005 Joint Conference: Reversing the Tide: Promoting Policies and Programs to Advance the Nation's Health:** July 12-15, 2005 in Boston, Massachusetts. For more information, visit: [http://www.naccho.org/conferences/annual\\_conference.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/conferences/annual_conference.cfm).

**Eighth Annual Conference on Innovations in Disaster Mental Health:** September 22-24, 2005 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Sponsored by the Disaster Mental Health Institute at the University of South Dakota. For more information on the conference, visit: <http://www.usd.edu/dmhi/conference.cfm>.

**Yale New Haven International Congress on Disaster Medicine and Emergency Management:** September 12-13, 2005 in New Haven, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Yale-New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response. For more information, visit: <http://www.yalenewhavenhealth.org/emergency/commu/natlconf.html>.

**IAEM 2005 Annual Conference and EMEX:** November 12-16, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit the conference website: <http://www.iaem.com/events/annual/intro.htm>.

### **Kansas City Area Volunteer Agencies Participate in Volunteer Reception Center Planning and Development**

Non-governmental and public sector agencies from across the Kansas City area, including the Mid-America Medical Reserve Corps, are working together to develop a *Volunteer Reception Center Implementation Plan and Operations Manual*. This cooperative effort, part of the Kansas City area's Spontaneous/Unaffiliated Volunteer (SUV) Task Force, includes representatives from the Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross, Heart of America United Way, The Salvation Army, Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD), Missouri United Methodist Disaster Response Team (MUMDRT), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee (MEMC), Coalition for Independence, Kansas City Health Department and Mid-America Medical Reserve Corps. Representatives from the Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), FEMA Region VII and DHHS/OPHS Region VII are also assisting with this effort. This plan is designed primarily to address the utilization and

management of spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers, as well as affiliated, but unassigned, volunteers following a very large-scale natural or man-made disaster affecting the Kansas City region, i.e., Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties in Missouri and Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties in Kansas. This plan and its associated systems include processes for:

- Public notification and communications (e.g., a phone bank)
- Needs assessment
- Volunteer agency input and participation
- Volunteer reception and assignment
- Volunteer utilization and satisfaction
- Record-keeping for spontaneous volunteers who are placed with an agency
- Identification and badging of volunteers

A functional exercise of this plan is scheduled for July or August 2005. This plan is based on a concept developed by the Florida Commission on Community Service and the Ohio Citizen Corps' Volunteer Reception Center Plan. For more information on this effort, contact Cindi Souder, Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross, at (816) 931-6662 ext. 202 or by e-mail at [csouder@msn.com](mailto:csouder@msn.com).

### **Region VII Medical Reserve Corps Leaders Establish Working Groups to Address Major Issues**

During their regional breakout session at the 2005 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership Conference, Region VII Medical Reserve Corps leaders discussed the formation of several working groups to address the major issues facing Medical Reserve Corps units throughout the region and across the nation. Following the conference, working groups were established to address the following issues:

- Liability protection for volunteers
- Training, core competencies and standardization
- Volunteer recruiting
- Funding and sustainability

The goal of these working groups is to develop templates, best practices and/or similar guidance that can be tailored for use in each of the region's states. For more information on this effort or to participate in a working group, contact Gary Brown at (816) 426-2829 or [gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov](mailto:gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov).